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INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DENOUNCES CIA MANUAL
BY ROBERT PARRY

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House Intelligence Committee chairman Wednesday night denounced a CIA manual produced for Nicaraguan rebels as "repugnant" and a "disaster for U.S. foreign policy."

In a scathing statement, Rep. Edward P. Boland, D-Mass., panel chairman, condemned the 90-page psychological warfare manual as a "document (that) should never have been produced by any element of the United States government."

The manual advises U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels that some officials of the nation's leftist government can be "neutralized" with the "selective use of violence" and recommends the hiring of professional criminals to carry out "selective jobs."

A copy of the manual was obtained by The Associated Press, and Boland said the House Intelligence Committee had been unaware of its existence until the AP supplied it a copy Oct. 1.

In a report Monday, the AP, citing intelligence sources, said the manual was produced by the CIA.

In a letter to Rep. Thomas Downey, D-N.Y., who had called for a congressional probe, Boland confirmed that the manual was prepared by the CIA and was given to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras, last year.

"The committee was unaware of the document until it was obtained by The Associated Press," Boland said. "Since that time, the committee staff has been exploring with the CIA the reasons for its production and distribution. That investigation is not yet complete."

Boland, using his toughest language to date in attacking CIA covert support for the rebels, said "the document should never have been produced by any element of the United States government. It espouses the doctrine of Lenin, not Jefferson."

"It embraces the communist revolutionary tactics the United States has pledged to defeat throughout the world. Its emphasis on deceiving the populace makes a mockery of American championship of democratic values."

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THE MANUAL SUGGESTS ARRANGING A VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION THAT WILL LEAD TO THE DEATH OF ONE OR MORE REBEL SUPPORTERS AND THE CREATION OF A 'MARTYR.' IT ALSO INSTRUCTS THE REBELS IN HOW TO COERCE NICARAGUANS INTO CARRYING OUT ASSIGNMENTS AGAINST THEIR WILL.

IN HIS LETTER, BOLAND SAID THE MANUAL 'OFFERS PROOF (THAT) THE SECRET WAR IN NICARAGUA IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST SANDINISTA ARMS SHIPMENTS (TO) SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS. THE WAR IS AN EFFORT TO OVERTHROW THE SANDINISTAS,' NICARAGUA'S LEFTIST RULING GROUP.

'ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE ALWAYS DENIED THIS; BUT THE MANUAL CLEARLY ADOPTS THE CONTRAS AVOWED AIM OF DEPOSING THE GOVERNMENT IN MANAGUA. FURTHER, THE MANUAL REVEALS BOTH THE CONSCIOUS TARGETING OF INDIVIDUALS FOR 'NEUTRALIZATION' AND A DISREGARD FOR THE SAFETY OF INNOCENT CITIZENS IN DEMONSTRATIONS THAT IS REPUGNANT TO A NATION THAT CONDEMNS SUCH ACTS IN OTHERS.'

BOLAND ALSO COMPARED THE MANUAL TO CIA-DIRECTED MINING OF NICARAGUA'S HARBORS EARLY THIS YEAR.

'LIKE THE MINING OF NICARAGUA'S HARBORS, THE MANUAL WAS NOT REVEALED TO THE COMMITTEE UNTIL AFTER THE FACT; AND THEN ONLY AFTER THE COMMITTEE ASKED ABOUT IT. ... LIKE THE MINING, THE MANUAL IS A DISASTER FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

'I AM APPALLED BY THE IMAGE OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE MANUAL PORTRAYS.'

ON WEDNESDAY, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CONTINUED TO REFUSE COMMENT ON REPORTS ABOUT THE MANUAL; AND SEN. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, D-N.Y., VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, TOLD THE CIA TO EXPLAIN THE MANUAL TO THAT PANEL BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

CIA SPOKESWOMAN PATTI VOLZ SAID WEDNESDAY THE AGENCY STILL HAD NO COMMENT ON THE REPORT AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT IT.

WHEN ASKED IF THE 'RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED IN THE CIA MANUAL' CONFLICT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANTI-TERRORISM STAND, DEPUTY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ALAN ROMBERG SAID: 'YOU'RE IDENTIFYING IT AS A CIA MANUAL AND I'M NOT COMMENTING ON IT IN ANY WAY.'

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, REP. THOMAS J. DOWNEY, D-N.Y., CALLED ON THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE MANUAL, ENTITLED 'PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS IN GUERRILLA WARFARE.'

'I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD PLACE ITSELF IN THE POSITION OF ENCOURAGING TERRORISM; BUT THAT IS WHAT THE MANUAL SEEMS TO BE DOING,' DOWNEY SAID IN A LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE.

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Downey's letter cited an Associated Press report Monday that said the book also urges the hiring of professional criminals for 'selective jobs' and coercing Nicaraguans into carrying out assignments against their will.

Downey called on the committee to 'investigate these allegations as soon as possible.'

The New York Democrat said in an interview Wednesday he hoped that the review could begin shortly after the Nov. 6 elections.

Downey said the investigation should examine how the manual was produced; at what level it was approved and whether any of the recommendations had been followed.

Morton Halperin, director of the Center for National Security Studies, a Washington research organization affiliated with the American Civil Liberties Union, said the CIA's role in producing the manual 'calls into question the credibility of the CIA's routine assertions that (allegations it is involved in political killings) are not true because the agency complies with the president's executive order.'

Adolfo Calero, head of the Honduran-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the largest U.S.-supported rebel group, confirmed receiving the manual but denied that it was from the CIA. He said it came from a supporter he would not name and said some parts were ignored because 'it talks about terrorism, which is something we haven't done.'